

Photographing Freezing Soap Bubbles

By Jean Davids

Note: The photos below are samples that inspired me, they are not mine.

Videos of the process can be found at the resources section at the end of this document.



Recipe for Successful Soap Bubbles

My soap bubble recipe:

1 1/2 cups of water

1/2 cup of liquid dish soap

1/4 cup of light Karo Syrup

LOTS of Patience

Very Cold Temperature with No Wind!

What You Need

- Straw to blow the bubbles
- Cup or other object with good base to blow bubbles into – I use a cup bottom
- Tripod works best for me – others prefer freehand – using tripod works best with camera remote as well
- Backlighting works best or side lighting with pleasing background
- Something to put your cold camera in afterwards to avoid damage to camera – remember cold weather rules

Technique

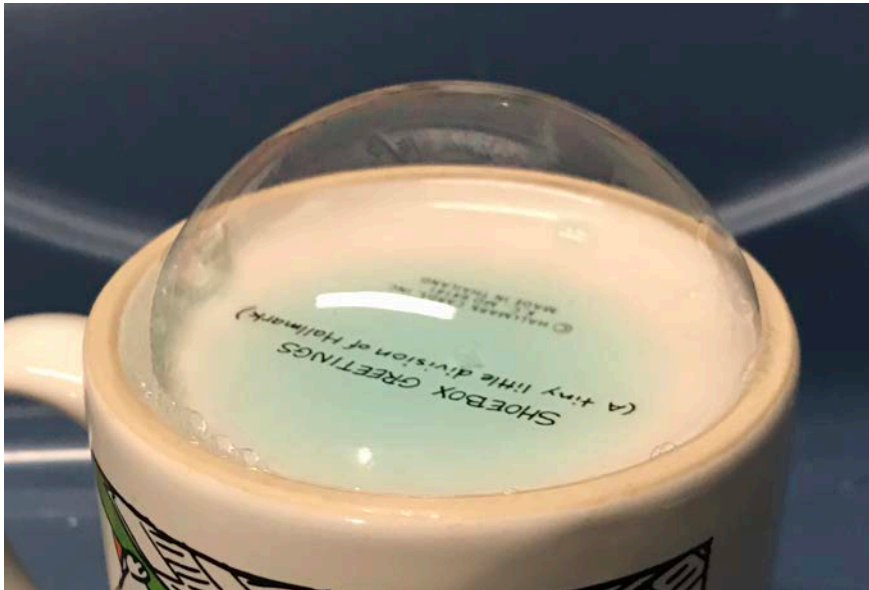
- Siphon soap bubble mixture onto the base of your base (dip straw in, put finger over end of straw, move straw to base and remove finger)
- Blow the bubble moving the straw up and out at the same time – one theory says to puff into the straw lightly as you go to create more star like crystals versus fern like crystals
- Take lots of photos and/or video

Focusing

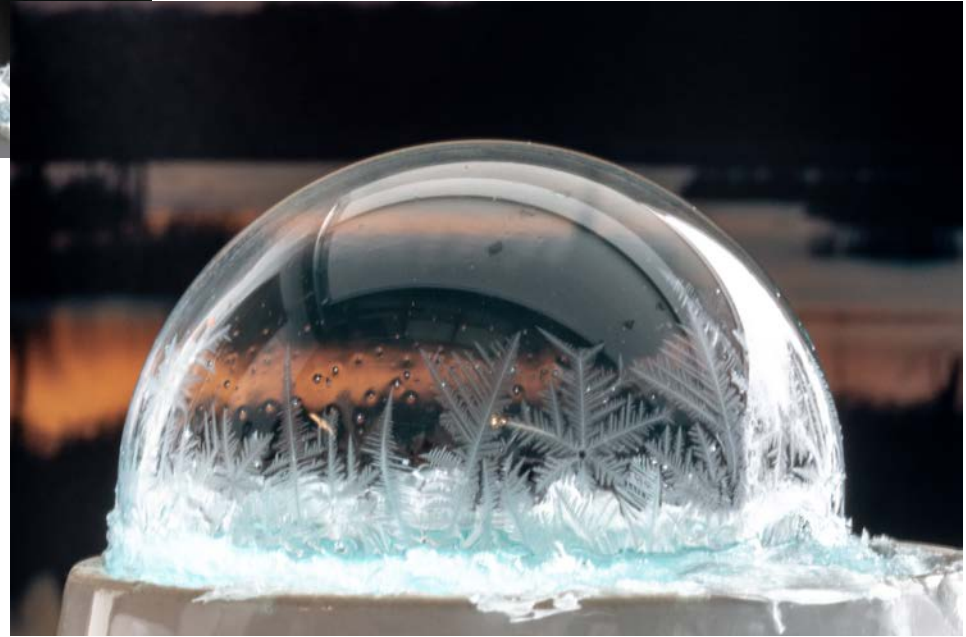
- I did an autofocus on my first bubble using an aperture like F11 or so to try and capture all crystals that form
- Switch to manual focus on both lens and camera after getting this initial focus to avoid focus searching on any other photos you take
- All other exposure settings are determined by lighting and other conditions

Initial Shots Taken in My Garage

- The angle you shoot at matters
- Backlighting matters



More From Garage – Backdrop Image added



Working Outdoors With Backlighting







Resources

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NT-41Z42tME>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuVLW3x2sTo>